THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The following Oil Companies are operating their own Company Owned Company Operated (COCO) retail outlets and/or Jubilee Retail Outlets at various locations in the State of Gujarat:

(1) Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.
(2) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.
(3) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.
(4) IBP Co. Ltd.

None of these retail outlets has been rented out to any person. Each of these retail outlets is operated by an officer of the connected Oil Company as over-all incharge of the outlet. Labour assistance is provided to the officer through a contractor.

Off-Loading of equity from ONGC by GAIL

722. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether GAIL has decided to seek its equity of 4.8 per cent in ONGC; and

(b) if so, what would be the new equity structure of ONGC and what impact it would have on its management structure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Tourist Centres in U.P.

723. Prof. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of tourism projects formulated for Uttar Pradesh, district-wise;

(b) the number of those which have been completed, project-wise/ district-wise; and

(c) the details of future plan for opening different tourist centres in Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) During the 9th Plan, 104 tourism projects were sanctioned in Uttar

Pradesh under the scheme of Central financial assistance. For such projects, State is treated as a unit and hence district-wise details are not maintained in the Department of Tourism.

(b) Out of 104 projects, 23 have been completed.

(c) The Department of Tourism provides financial assistance for important tourism projects identified in consultation with State Governments/UT Administrations. The following projects in Uttar pradesh have been identified during the current financial year and the State Government has been requested to send detailed project proposals:—

(i) Development of Lucknow as a tourist destination.

(ii) Rural tourism project at Chiraigaon in Varanasi District.

Inclusion of Tourism in Priority Sector

724. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to widen the definition of priority sector lending to include tourism in the priority sector;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when the proposal to accord priority to tourism sector would be finalized?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (c) In order to provide impetus to the growth and development of tourism, Department of Tourism has recommended to the Ministry of Finance that tourism industry be made eligible for lending under the priority sector by Banks.

Construction of 'Mahadwara' to "Mangladevi Temple" in Karnataka

725. SHRI JANARDANA POOJARI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the management of Shri Mangaladevi, an ancient temple in Mangalore, District Daksin Kannada, Karnataka, attracting a large number of devotees from far and near have applied to the Archaeological Survey of India seeking permission to construct the 'Mahadwara' to the temple;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;